

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A mattress system, comprising:

a mattress having a top surface and a bottom surface;

a cavity arranged in the mattress, the cavity being open at the top surface and having a defined size;

an expandable cushion arranged in the cavity;

a mattress protector covering at least the top surface of the mattress, the protector including a first portion that extends into the cavity and a second portion that extends over the expandable cushion arranged in the cavity; and

a control system operatively coupled with the cushion to control an expansion and contraction of the cushion in order to maintain a cushion pressure in accordance with a weight of a user in proportion to a firmness of the mattress, wherein the control system includes a fluidic pump arranged to pump fluid into the expandable cushion, a fluid relief mechanism arranged to allow fluid to escape the expandable cushion, and a fluid pressure switch operable to automatically maintain a defined pressure level in the expandable cushion.

2. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is air, and wherein a control switch is provided to control an inflation and deflation of the expandable cushion.

3. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein the control switch is an electric control switch.

4. (previously presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a fluid pressure reservoir operatively coupled with the control system.

5. (previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is air.

6. (previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is a liquid.

7. (previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid relief mechanism allows the fluid to escape the expandable cushion to maintain the defined pressure level.

8. (new) A mattress system, comprising:
- a mattress having a top surface and a bottom surface and a defined firmness;
  - a cavity arranged in the mattress;
  - an expandable cushion arranged in the cavity; and
  - a control system operatively coupled with the cushion to control an expansion and contraction of the cushion in order to maintain a cushion pressure in accordance with a weight of a user in proportion to the firmness of the mattress,
- wherein the control system includes a fluidic pump arranged to pump fluid into the expandable cushion, a fluid relief mechanism arranged to allow fluid to escape the expandable cushion, and a fluid pressure switch operable to automatically maintain a defined pressure level in the expandable cushion.